

REMARKS

Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,657,252 (George). Applicant has amended the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to the claims as amended.

Below, Applicant discusses subject matter in the independent claims 1 and 12 not disclosed or suggested by the cited art. On the basis of this, Applicant believes all the claims are patentable over the cited art.

Discussion of Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 sets out an interface between an automation host and a plurality of tools used to perform a processing step. The interface includes a plurality of virtual host interfaces all implemented within a single control router. Each virtual host interface from the plurality of virtual host interfaces provides a communications and process behavioral interface to one of the tools in the plurality of tools. This is not disclosed or suggested by George.

George discloses a dedicated interface server 16 being used for each item of factory equipment 18. George indicates the interface server is usually a general purpose computer. See George at column 5, lines 35 through 42. George does not disclose or suggest a plurality of virtual host interfaces all implemented within a single control router, as set out in claim 1.

Discussion of Independent Claim 12

Claim 12 sets out a method for connecting an automation host to a plurality of tools used to perform a processing step. In a step (a), a separate communications and process behavioral interface is provided to each tool in the plurality of tools. All the separate communications and process behavioral interfaces are provided from within a single control router. This is not disclosed or suggested by George.

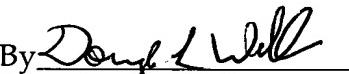
George discloses a dedicated interface server 16 being used for each item of factory equipment 18. George indicates the interface server is usually a general purpose computer. See George at column 5, lines 35 through 42. George does not disclose or suggest separate communications and process behavioral interfaces being provided from within a single control router, as set out in claim 12 of the present case.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this Amendment has placed the present application in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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